

## SECTION 2

# Reading for Understanding

## ► Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Colonists saw British efforts to increase control over the colonies as violations of their rights.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Many colonists organized to oppose British policies.

## ► Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**Crispus Attacks** sailor of African-American and Native American ancestry who died at the Boston Massacre

**Boston Massacre** incident in 1770 in which British troops fired on and killed American colonists

**Townshend Acts** acts passed by Parliament in 1767 to tax imports in the colonies

**writs of assistance** search warrants used to enter homes or businesses to search for smuggled goods

**Daughters of Liberty** organization of colonial women formed to protest British policies

**Samuel Adams** leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty

**committee of correspondence** organization formed to exchange information about British policies and American resistance

**Boston Tea Party** incident in 1773, when colonists protested British policies by boarding British ships and throwing their cargoes of tea overboard

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**duties** taxes placed on imported goods

### REVIEW

**John Adams** lawyer who defended British soldiers accused of murder in the Boston Massacre

## ► Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the boxes to record how each aspect of the Townshend Acts angered the colonists.

See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R7.

### CAUSES AND EFFECTS

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Townshend Acts...   | anger colonists because...                           |
| writs of assistance | customs officials invaded their homes and businesses |
| duties on imports   |  |

# Colonial Resistance Grows

## One American's Story

Crispus Attucks was born into slavery in Framingham, Massachusetts, around 1723. It is believed that Attucks was the son of an African-American father and a Native American mother. As a young man, Attucks escaped slavery by running away to sea.

In March 1770, Attucks was in Boston, where feelings against British rule were reaching a fever pitch. He joined a crowd who were protesting British troops. A witness described what happened next.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“[The British officer] is said to have ordered [the troops] to fire, and to have repeated that order. One gun was fired first; then others in succession and with deliberation, till ten or a dozen guns were fired.”

—anonymous account of the Boston Massacre

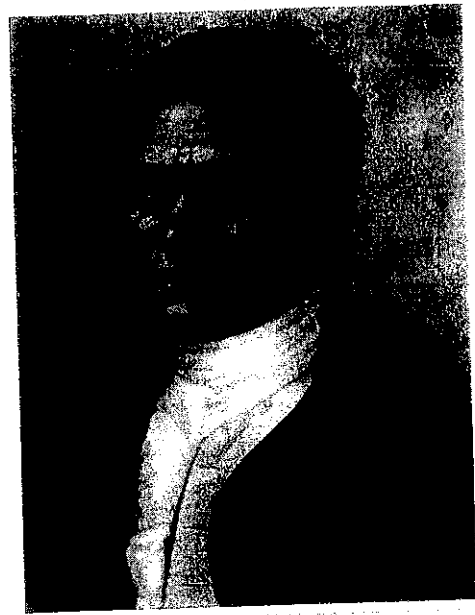
When the smoke cleared Attucks was dead, one of the victims of the **Boston Massacre**. Throughout America, tension between Britain and its colonies was exploding into violence.

## Tightening British Control

**KEY QUESTION** Why did the Townshend Acts anger the colonists?

After the uproar over the Sugar and Stamp Acts, Britain hoped to avoid further conflict with the colonies. Yet Parliament faced a serious dilemma: how to control the unruly colonists without angering the people with a new set of taxes. The answer, Parliament decided, was the Declaratory Act.

Passed in 1766, the Declaratory Act affirmed Parliament's right to legislate for the colonies “in all cases whatsoever.” Importantly, however, no new tax accompanied the act. The purpose of the Declaratory Act was simply to reassert Parliament's control over all colonial affairs.



Crispus Attucks

Most colonists did not feel threatened by the Declaratory Act. Although some politicians did protest the new law in colonial assemblies, most people were not bothered by Parliament's bold political statement. Instead, colonists simply ignored the act and went on with their lives as best they could.

**The Townshend Acts Are Passed** Parliament's new strategy, however, had one major flaw: with the Stamp Act repealed, Britain still needed to raise money in the colonies to pay for troops and other expenses. So Britain's finance minister, Charles Townshend, proposed a new series of **duties**, or taxes on imports, to raise revenue in America.

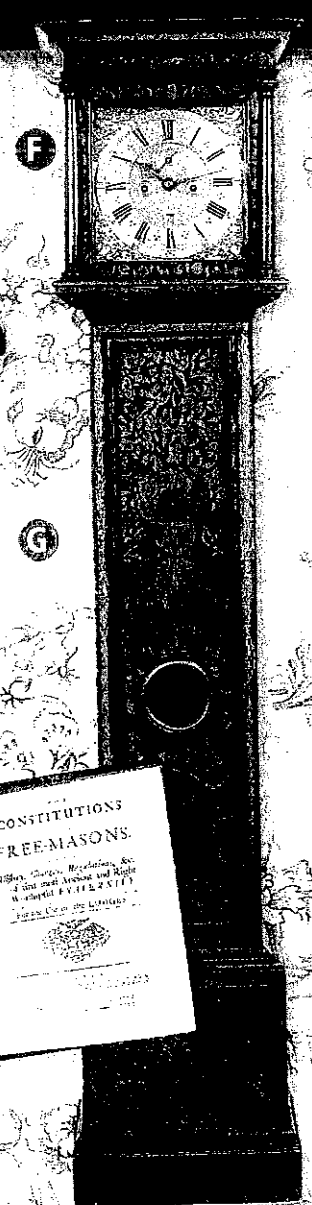
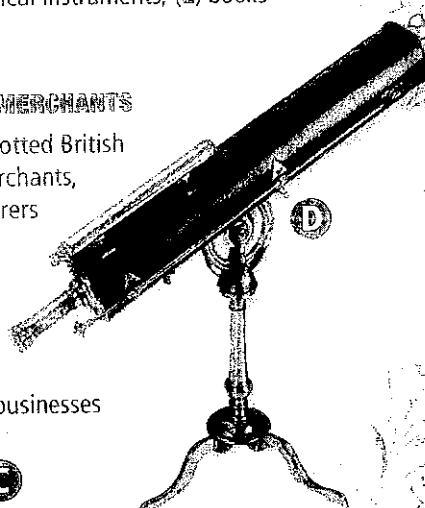
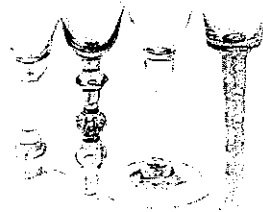
Approved by Parliament in 1767, the **Townshend Acts** placed duties on numerous imports to the colonies such as glass, paper, paint, lead, and tea. In addition, the acts allowed British officers to issue **writs of assistance**, or search warrants, to enter homes and businesses to search for smuggled or illegal goods.

## Daily Life The Colonial Marketplace

By the 1760s, English merchants were sending hundreds of ships to America with goods for sale to the colonists. Beyond the daily necessities of life—tools, knives, nails, and axes—colonists were eager to buy the latest luxuries and fashions from England, including (A) clothing, (B) glass and building materials, (C) glassware, (D) scientific and medical instruments, (E) books and periodicals, (F) furniture, and (G) fine silks.

### BOYCOTT PRESSURES MERCHANTS

When the colonists boycotted British goods, many English merchants, shippers, and manufacturers lost business as their products went unsold. As a result, in 1765 many merchants pressured Parliament to repeal the acts so their businesses could recover.



**CRITICAL THINKING Make Generalizations**  
How did the colonial boycotts affect British merchants?

**Anger Over the Townshend Acts** News of the Townshend Acts sparked immediate protest throughout the colonies. People were furious that Parliament had once again passed a tax without their consent. Colonists felt that only locally elected officials—rather than Parliament—should have the right to create laws and taxes in the colonies. Many people, such as Pennsylvania lawyer John Dickinson, thought the acts were illegal. Dickinson explained his beliefs in a famous pamphlet:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

¶¶ We cannot be happy without being free . . . we cannot be free without being secure in our property . . . we cannot be secure in our property, if [taxed] without our consent. ¶¶

—John Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*

The colonists were also angry about the writs of assistance. Many believed that the writs went against their natural rights, as defined by English philosopher John Locke. The law of nature, wrote Locke, teaches that “no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.”

⚙️ **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why the Townshend Acts angered the colonists.

## Colonists Protest

🔑 **KEY QUESTION** In what ways did colonists protest British laws?

In response to the Townshend Acts, merchants in Boston organized another boycott of British goods. By October 1767, other colonies had joined the Massachusetts protests. The colonists were uniting for a common cause.

**Political Activism Spreads** As the boycott spread throughout the colonies, more people became politically active. Many colonists who had not previously participated in politics now had a way of making their voices heard. For example, some women formed their own protest organization called the **Daughters of Liberty**. They urged colonists to weave their own cloth and to use American products instead of British goods.

Meanwhile, colonial leaders urged the people to remain calm and not to protest violently. “No mobs,” the *Boston Gazette* suggested, “Constitutional methods are best.” Regardless, some colonists continued to protest with anger and threatened to form a mob.

Fearing disorder in the colonies, British officials called for more troops. This angered the colonists—even those who wanted peace. **Samuel Adams**, a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty, stated, “We will destroy every soldier that dare put his foot on shore. . . . I look upon them as foreign enemies!”

**The Boston Massacre** In the fall of 1768, more than 1,000 additional British soldiers (known as redcoats for their bright red jackets) arrived in Boston under the command of General Thomas Gage. With their arrival, tensions erupted into violence.

## Connecting History

### Representative Government

Ever since the House of Burgesses was established in Jamestown in 1619, colonists had the right to raise their own taxes. See Chapter 3, page 64.



Paul Revere's etching of the Boston Massacre fueled anger in the colonies.

Are the soldiers represented fairly in Revere's etching?


On March 5, 1770, a group of colonists—mostly youths and dockworkers—surrounded some soldiers in front of the State House. Soon, the two groups began trading insults, shouting at each other and even throwing snowballs. As the crowd grew larger, the soldiers began to fear for their safety. Thinking they were about to be attacked, the soldiers fired into the crowd. Five people, including Crispus Attucks, were killed.

The people of Boston were outraged at what came to be known as the Boston Massacre. In the weeks that followed, the colonies were flooded with anti-British propaganda in newspapers, pamphlets, and political posters. Attucks and the four victims were depicted as heroes who had given their lives for the cause


of freedom. The British soldiers, on the other hand, were portrayed as evil and menacing villains.

At the same time, the soldiers who had fired the shots were arrested and charged with murder. **John Adams**, a lawyer and cousin of Samuel Adams, agreed to defend the soldiers in court. Many people criticized Adams and some even threatened to harm the lawyer. But Adams believed that everyone—including the British soldiers—was entitled to a fair trial. Although Adams supported the colonists' cause, he wanted to demonstrate that everyone was subject to the rule of law.

Adams argued that the soldiers had acted in self-defense. The jury agreed and acquitted the soldiers. To many colonists, however, the Boston Massacre would stand as a symbol of British tyranny in the colonies.

 **SUMMARIZE** Describe how colonists protested British laws.

## Economic Interference

 **KEY QUESTION** How did colonists in the port cities react to the Tea Act?

In April 1770, Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts. Once again, the colonial boycott had worked—British trade had been hurt and Parliament had backed down. But Parliament kept the tea tax to show that it still had the right to tax the colonists.

**The Tea Act Increases Anger** To demonstrate their displeasure with the remaining tax on tea, many colonists chose not to purchase luxuries from British merchants. Instead, they drank tea that was smuggled from Holland. As a result, many British tea companies lost money in America as their tea went unsold and rotted in ports.

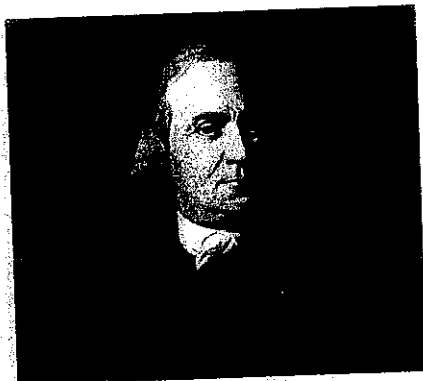
Attempting to save British tea merchants, Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773. This law gave one company, the East India Company, the exclusive right to sell tea in the colonies. Although the act lowered the price of tea for colonists, it also restricted colonists from acting as shippers and merchants of the valuable product.

Many colonists—particularly those who had traded in smuggled tea—were enraged by the new tax. Colonists saw the tea act as another attempt by Parliament to interfere in the economic life of the colonies.

**Colonial Unity Expands** By this time, colonial leaders understood the importance of unity among the colonies. Therefore, Samuel Adams urged many towns in Massachusetts to establish **committees of correspondence** to communicate with their neighboring towns and colonial leaders.

In the months that followed, these groups exchanged numerous secret letters on colonial affairs and resistance to British policy. Before long, many other colonies—such as New York, South Carolina, and Rhode Island—had created similar committees of correspondence.

## History Makers Revolutionary Leaders



**Samuel Adams** 1722–1803

When Parliament levied taxes upon the colonies, no one responded with greater passion and fury than Boston merchant Samuel Adams. A skillful writer, orator, and popular leader of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Committee of Correspondence, Samuel Adams persuaded many colonists to unite against British policy and taxation. "It does not require a majority to prevail," Samuel Adams wrote, "but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."



**John Adams** 1735–1826

While his cousin Samuel planned fiery public protests, John Adams used a quieter tactic—the law—to counter British policy. "Facts are stubborn things," Adams wrote, "and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." Putting this theory into practice, Adams helped draft a legal petition to the king suggesting that Parliament had no right to tax the colonies.

### COMPARING Leaders

How did Samuel and John Adams differ in the way they protested British actions?



For more information about Samuel and John Adams, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com

**The Boston Tea Party** Protests against the Tea Act took place throughout the colonies. In Charlestown, South Carolina, colonists unloaded tea and let it rot on the docks. In New York City and Philadelphia, colonists blocked tea ships from landing. In Boston, the Sons of Liberty organized what came to be known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

On the evening of December 16, 1773, a group of men disguised as Native Americans boarded three tea ships docked in Boston harbor. One of the men, George Hewes, a Boston shoemaker, later recalled the events.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

¶¶ We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard. . . . In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found in the ship; while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. ¶¶

—George Hewes, quoted in *A Retrospect of the Boston Tea-Party*

That night, Hewes and the others destroyed 342 chests of tea to protest the Tea Act. Many colonists rejoiced at the news. British officials, however, were angered by the destructive protest and wanted to punish the culprits.

In the days that followed, some colonial leaders offered to pay for the tea if Parliament agreed to repeal the hated Tea Act. But Britain ruled out any compromise. This decision pushed many Americans into open rebellion.

🍵 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Describe how colonists reacted to the Tea Act.

## 2

### Section Assessment



#### ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to  
Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

#### TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Crispus Attucks
- Boston Massacre
- Townshend Acts
- writs of assistance
- Daughters of Liberty
- Samuel Adams
- John Adams
- Boston Tea Party

#### USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram that you started at the beginning of this section.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Townshend Acts...   | anger colonists because...                           |
| writs of assistance | customs officials invaded their homes and businesses |
| duties on imports   |  |

#### KEY IDEAS

3. Why did colonists oppose the Townshend Acts?
4. How did the colonists express their discontent?
5. What prompted the Boston Tea Party?

#### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Draw Conclusions** Why did Parliament keep trying different ways of raising revenue?
7. **Problems and Solutions** Why did the colonists react so violently to the Tea Act?
8. **Summarize** Explain the impact of Paul Revere's etching of the Boston Massacre.
9. **Writing Letter** Write a letter to Parliament, urging the British government not to interfere in colonial trade.



## POPULAR RESISTANCE

The colonists found many ways to resist the new laws passed by Parliament. Americans from all walks of life joined in the popular protests.

### PROTESTS IN THE STREETS

Popular protests echoed through the streets of colonial towns. In this illustration, an angry crowd of colonists burns the hated stamps.



### POLITICS IN DAILY LIFE

Protests against the Stamp Act appeared everywhere, from newspapers and periodicals to ordinary household items.



A mock stamp printed by a Pennsylvania journal to protest the Stamp Act



### WOMEN BECOME ACTIVISTS

For the first time in American history, large numbers of women became involved in a political cause. Women played a leading role in the boycotts of British goods. They also organized and signed petitions. This British cartoon shows the women of Edenton, North Carolina signing a promise not to buy British products.

### Activity

#### Join the Boycott

Imagine you have joined the boycott of imported goods. Create a political pamphlet that expresses your opinion about British products.